

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPAL
REGULATIONS
for
PSYCHOLOGY**

CHAPTER 69 PSYCHOLOGY

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6900 GENERAL PROVISIONS

6900.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice psychology.

6900.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules) and 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures), and 46 (Medicine) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

6901 TERM OF LICENSE

6901.1 Subject to § 6901.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of December 31st of each odd-numbered year.

6901.2 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of Chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of the last day of the month of the birthdate of the holder of the license, or other date established by the Director.

6902 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

6902.1 Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant for a license shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board, in accordance with § 504(o) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205(o) of the following:

(a) That the applicant has received a doctoral degree from an institution which was accredited, at the time the degree was conferred, by an accrediting body recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation; and

(b) That the applicant meets one of the following requirements:

- (1) That the applicant's doctoral degree or doctoral program transcript specifies on its face that the degree is in psychology;
- (2) That the Office of the Registrar of the applicant's educational institution certifies directly to the Board that the applicant's doctoral degree is in psychology;
- (3) That the applicant's doctoral degree program is listed in the edition of "Designated Doctoral Programs in Psychology," published annually by the American Association of State Psychology Boards or the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology (the National Register), applicable for the year in which the degree was conferred; or
- (4) That the applicant is recognized by the National Register as having completed a doctoral degree program in psychology under the National Register's transition policy.

6902.2 An applicant shall submit a certified transcript of the applicant's educational record(s) from the educational institution to the Board with the completed application.

6902.3 An applicant for a license shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board pursuant to § 6902.4 that the applicant obtained experience that meets the following requirements:

- (a) The applicant shall have acquired the experience after conferral of the applicant's doctoral degree but before the date the application was submitted;
- (b) The experience shall have consisted of a minimum of four thousand (4,000) hours of psychological practice performed under the general supervision of a psychologist, psychiatrist, or independent clinical social worker licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States over a period of not less than two (2) years and not more than three (3) years; provided, that the Board may extend the three (3) year limit for good cause shown;
- (c) Two hundred (200) of the required hours of practice shall have been completed under the immediate supervision of a professional described in paragraph (b);
- (d) One hundred (100) of the hours of practice required by paragraph (c) shall have been completed under the immediate supervision of a psychologist licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States;
- (e) One hundred and fifty (150) of the hours of practice required by paragraph (c) shall have been under individual supervision and a maximum of fifty (50) hours under group supervision; and
- (f) The applicants' performance shall have been rated as at least satisfactory by each supervisor.

- 6902.4 An applicant for a license shall demonstrate qualifications required by § 6902.3 by submitting with the application a signed statement from each supervisor who supervised the applicant during the required period of experience, on a form approved by the Board, which sets forth as follows:
- (a) The location at which and period of time during which the supervision took place;
 - (b) The number of hours of general supervision of the applicant;
 - (c) The number of hours of immediate supervision of the applicant;
 - (d) The specific nature of and responsibilities included in the applicant's practice;
 - (e) A rating of the applicant's performance; and
 - (f) The jurisdiction in which the supervisor was licensed during the supervisory period and the supervisor's license number.
- 6902.5 A postdoctoral internship shall be acceptable experience if it meets the requirements of § 6902.3.
- 6902.6 An applicant for a license who has been licensed in another jurisdiction in the United States but who does not qualify for licensure by reciprocity pursuant to the Act and § 4014 of this title may rely upon licensed, unsupervised practice to fulfill the experience requirements of this section upon submission of a certificate of licensure in good standing with the application and a statement which sets forth the location, duration, total hours, and specific nature of the applicant's practice.

6903 APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- 6903.1 The Board may grant a license to practice psychology to an applicant who completed an educational program in a college or university in a foreign country which program is not accredited in accordance with § 6902 if the applicant meets the following requirements:
- (a) Meets all requirements of this chapter except for § 6902.1; and
 - (b) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant's education and training are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this subtitle and the Act in ensuring that the applicant is qualified to practice psychology by submitting the documentation required by § 6903.2 of this section.
- 6903.2 An applicant under this section shall, in lieu of meeting the requirements of § 6902.1(a), submit one of the following:
- (a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has received a doctoral degree from a foreign institution which was accredited, at the time the degree was conferred, by an accrediting body recognized by the national government of the country in which the institution is located; or

- (b) A certification from a private education evaluation service approved by the Board that the applicant's foreign education is substantially equivalent to the education provided in an accredited program.

6903.3 The Board may interview an applicant under this section to determine whether the applicant's education or training meets the requirements of the Act and this chapter.

6903.4 If a document required by this chapter is in a language other than English, an applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the Board and shall submit a translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.

6904 NATIONAL EXAMINATION

6904.1 To qualify for a license by examination, an applicant shall receive one of the following scores:

- (a) A score not lower than one-half (0.5) standard deviation below the national mean score on the Psychological Licensing Examination sponsored by the American Association of State Psychology Boards (AASPB examination);
- (b) A passing score, as determined by the Board, on a successor examination to the AASPB examination; or
- (c) A passing score on the examination sponsored by the American Board of Examiners of Professional Psychology (ABEPP examination).

6904.2 An applicant who has passed an examination specified in § 6904.1 more than five (5) years prior to the application date, but who does not qualify for a license by reciprocity pursuant to the Act and § 4014 of this title, shall not be required to retake the examination if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has been continuously licensed and practicing as a psychologist in the United States since the date the applicant passed the examination.

6904.3 An applicant who desires to take an examination specified in § 6904.1(a) shall submit an application and supporting documentation in compliance with one (1) of the following schedules:

- (a) If the applicant desires to take the April AASPB examination, the application shall be submitted by the prior December 1, and all supporting documentation shall be received by the Board by the prior February 1; or
- (b) If the applicant desires to take the October AASPB examination, the application shall be submitted by the prior June 1, and all supporting documentation shall be received by the Board by the prior August 1.

6904.4 An applicant shall submit the applicant's examination results, which have been certified or validated by the AASPB or ABEPP, to the Board with the completed application.

6904.5 An applicant under this section who fails examinations on two (2) consecutive attempts may not take another examination for one (1) year following the second failure. Thereafter, the applicant may not take an examination for one (1) year after each failure.

6905 DISTRICT EXAMINATION AND INTERVIEW

6905.1 To qualify for a license under this chapter, an applicant shall receive a passing score on an examination developed by the Board on laws and rules, and ethical standards pertaining to the practice of psychology (the District examination).

6905.2 The Board shall administer the District examination at least three (3) times a year.

6905.3 An applicant shall not be eligible to take the District examination until all other requirements for a license are met.

6905.4 The District examination may consist of questions on the following:

- (a) The District of Columbia statutes and rules concerning the practice of psychology; and
- (b) The Code of Ethics of the American Psychological Association.

6905.5 A passing score on the District examination shall be a score of seventy-five percent (75%) on each part of the examination.

6905.6 The Board may require applicants to be interviewed with respect to their past and present education and experience relating to psychology.

6905.7 The Board may not deny an applicant a license on the basis of an interview unless statements by the applicant at the interview indicate that the applicant has violated the Act or this title.

6905.8 An applicant who fails the District examination on two (2) consecutive attempts may not retake the examination for six (6) months following the second failure. Thereafter, the applicant may not retake the examination for one (1) year after each failure.

6906 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

6906.1 Subject of § 6906.2, this section shall apply to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring December 31, 1991, and for subsequent terms.

- 6906.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor shall it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.
- 6906.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board in accordance with § 6907.
- 6906.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof of having completed thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two-year (2) period preceding the date the license expires.
- 6906.5 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit for each license year after December 31, 1989, that the applicant was in inactive status, up to a maximum of thirty (30) hours.
- 6906.6 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit for each year after December 31, 1989, that the applicant was not licensed, up to a maximum of thirty (30) hours.
- 6906.7 An applicant under this section shall prove completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:
- (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
 - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
 - (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
 - (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
 - (e) Verification by the sponsor of completion, by signature or stamp.
- 6906.8 An applicant under this section shall prove completion of continuing education course work which was audited under § 6908.3 by submitting with the application a signed statement from the instructor on college stationery for each class attended.
- 6906.9 An applicant under this section shall prove completion of individualized learning under § 6907.6(c) by submitting a signed statement from the supervisor which sets forth the information required by § 6902.4.
- 6906.10 An applicant for renewal of a license who fails to submit proof of having completed continuing education requirements by the date the license expires may renew the license up to sixty (60) days after expiration by submitting proof and paying the required additional late fee.

- 6906.11 Upon submitting proof and paying the late fee, the applicants shall be deemed to have possessed a valid license during the period between the expiration of the license and the submission of the required documentation and payment of the late fee.
- 6906.12 If an applicant for renewal of a license fails to submit proof of completion of continuing education requirements or pay the late fee within sixty (60) days after the expiration of the applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration.
- 6906.13 The Board may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the sixty (60) day period to renew after expiration if the applicant's failure to submit proof of completion was for good cause.

6907 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- 6907.1 The Board may, in its discretion, approve continuing education programs and activities that contribute to the growth of an applicant in professional competence in the practice of psychology and which meet the other requirements of this section.
- 6907.2 The Board may approve the following types of continuing education programs, if the program meets the requirements of § 6907.3:
- (a) An undergraduate or graduate course given at an accredited college or university;
 - (b) A seminar or workshop;
 - (c) An educational program given at a conference; and
 - (d) In-service training.
- 6907.3 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program shall do the following:
- (a) Be current in its subject matter;
 - (b) Be developed and taught by qualified individuals; and
 - (c) Meet one of the following requirements:
 - (1) Be administered or approved by a recognized psychology organization, accredited health care facility; or accredited college or university; or
 - (2) Be submitted by the program sponsors to the Board for review no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the presentation and be approved by the Board.

- 6907.4 The Board may issue and update a list of approved continuing education programs.
- 6907.5 An applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board pursuant to this section prior to attending the program.
- 6907.6 The Board may approve the following continuing education activities:
- (a) Serving as an instructor or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in-service training;
 - (b) Publication of an article in a professional journal or publication of a book or a chapter in a book or publication of a book review in a professional journal or bulletin; and
 - (c) Individualized learning under the immediate supervision of a psychologist, psychiatrist, or independent clinical social worker licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States.

6908 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

- 6908.1 The Board may grant continuing education credit for whole hours only, with a minimum of fifty (50) minutes constituting one (1) credit hour.
- 6908.2 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses that are taken for educational credit, each semester hour of credit shall constitute twenty (20) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour of credit shall constitute fourteen (14) hours of continuing education credit.
- 6908.3 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses that are audited, each semester hour of credit shall constitute fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour of credit shall constitute ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.
- 6908.4 The Board may grant a maximum of five (5) continuing education credits per year to an applicant who attends in-service education programs.
- 6908.5 The Board may grant a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of an applicant's continuing education requirement for completing continuing education activities under § 6907.6.
- 6908.6 The Board may grant credit to an applicant who serves as an instructor or speaker at an approved program for preparation and presentation time, subject to the restrictions under § 6908.7 through § 6908.9.
- 6908.7 The maximum amount of credit that may be granted for preparation time is twice the amount of the associated presentation time.

- 6908.8 If an applicant has previously received credit in connection with a particular presentation, the Board shall not grant credit for a subsequent presentation unless it involves either a different subject or substantial additional research concerning the same subject.
- 6908.9 The presentation shall have been completed during the period for which credit is claimed.
- 6908.10 The Board may grant continuing education credit under § 6907.8 only if the applicant proves to the satisfaction of the Board that the work has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed.

6909 CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- 6909.1 A licensee, student or graduate shall adhere to the standards set forth in the “Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct” as published by the American Psychological Association.

6910 [Reserved]

6911 PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY BY STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

- 6911.1 A student or graduate may practice psychology only under the general or immediate supervision of a psychologist, psychiatrist, or independent clinical social worker licensed in the District under the Act and in accordance with this section.
- 6911.2 Only the following persons shall be authorized to practice under this section:
- (a) Students whose practice fulfills education requirements under § 103(c) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.03 (1985) and § 6902;
 - (b) Students whose practice is not in fulfillment of educational requirements; Provided, that the student shall arrange for submission of a letter from the student’s educational institution to the Board which certifies that the student is actively completing a doctoral degree program and that the institution has no objection to the student’s practice; and
 - (c) Graduates fulfilling postdoctoral experience requirements under § 504(o)(2) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.04(o)(2) (1985) and § 6902 or during the pendency of the graduate’s initial application for a license under this chapter.
- 6911.3 A person who has been denied a license or disciplined in the District of Columbia or other jurisdiction in the United States may not practice pursuant to this section unless authorized by the Board in writing to do so.
- 6911.4 A supervisor shall, within two (2) weeks of supervising a student or graduate, inform the Board in writing of the following:

- (a) The supervisor's name and address;
- (b) The student's or graduate's name;
- (c) The expected period of supervision; and
- (d) The nature and location of the practice of the student or graduate.

6911.5 A student or graduate shall, within two (2) weeks of practicing pursuant to this section, do the following:

- (a) Inform the Board in writing of the supervisee's name and address;
- (b) The supervisor's name;
- (c) The expected period of supervision; and
- (d) The nature and location of the practice of the student or graduate.

6911.6 A student or graduate shall identify himself or herself as a student or graduate to a patient before performing actions of a psychologist.

6911.7 At least five percent (5%) of supervised practice during any one (1) month period shall be under immediate supervision.

6911.8 A graduate may not practice under this section for more than three (3) years, or beyond the graduate's completion of the postdoctoral experience requirement, whichever is less, unless the practice is during the pendency of an initial application by the graduate for a license under this chapter. The Board may, in its discretion, extend the three (3) year limit for good cause shown.

6911.9 A student or graduate shall not receive compensation of any nature, directly or indirectly, from a patient, except for a salary based on hours worked in the training program.

6911.10 A supervisor shall be fully responsible for all supervised practice by a student or graduate during the period of supervision, and is subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Act or this chapter by the student or graduate.

6911.11 A student or graduate shall be subject to all of the applicable provisions of the Act and this subtitle. The Board may deny an application for a license by, or take other disciplinary action against, a student or graduate who is found to have violated the Act or this subtitle, in accordance with chapter 41 of this title.

6911.12 For purposes of this section, the term "student" means an individual who is enrolled in a doctoral program which meets the requirements of § 6902.1.

6999 DEFINITIONS

6999.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant – a person applying for a license to practice psychology under this chapter.

Board – the Board of Psychology, established by § 211 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.11 (2001).

General Supervision – the supervision in which the supervisor is available to the supervisee either in person or by a communications device

Good cause – serious illness of the applicant; the death or serious illness of a member of the applicant's immediate family; or other cause sufficient to the Board.

Immediate supervision – supervision in which the supervisor is physically with the supervisee and either discussing or observing the supervisee's practice.

Psychologist – a person licensed to practice psychology under the Act, unless the context requires otherwise.

6999.2 The definitions in § 4099 of chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.